

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 730 - SB 729

March 18, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Clarifies that individuals who are full-time residents of a licensed nursing home, home for the aged, or a similar licensed institution that is outside of that individual's county of residence may not be prevented from voting by absentee ballot, regardless if a county election commission representative intends to appear at the licensed institution to administer and process votes on site. Decreases the amount of time, from 45 to 30 days after each election, within which a county election commission must forward the names of all voters who participated in an election to the Secretary of State (SOS).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

\$153,800/FY23-24 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –

\$307,600/FY24-25 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

\$153,800/FY25-26 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-201, full-time residents of any licensed nursing home, home for the aged, or a similar licensed institution that are on a permanent voter registry must have an absentee ballot automatically sent to them by the county election commission, and full-time residents of institutions in counties that are different than their county of residence may vote absentee by mail.
- According to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-601(a), a full-time resident of a nursing home that is within the county of the voter's residence may only vote either in person, or if a county election commission representative comes to their facility to process their absentee ballot.
- As a result of the proposed legislation, there will be an estimated 10 percent increase in the number of full-time nursing home residents who will request an absentee voter application and ballot.
- As of November 2020, there were 21,982 registered voters who were full-time nursing home residents; therefore, 2,199 (21,982 x 10%) are estimated to request an absentee voter application and ballot.
- The average cost to mail and process an absentee application and ballot is \$2.45 combined.

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- Therefore, there will be an increase in expenditures of \$5,388 ($\$2.45 \times 2,199$) per election, which will be paid for with local expenditures, except during the Presidential Primary Preference election when it is paid for with state expenditures.
- Decreasing, from 45 days to 30 days, the time within which a county election commission must forward names of all voters who participated in an election to the SOS will require county election commissions to hire additional staffing to meet the shortened deadline.
- It is estimated that the total increase in expenditures associated with increased staffing in all counties will be \$148,400 per election, which will be paid for with local expenditures, except during the Presidential Primary Preference election when it is paid for with state expenditures.
- The total increase in state expenditures will be \$153,788 ($\$5,388 + \$148,400$) in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter.
- The total increase in local expenditures will be \$307,576 [$(\$5,388 + \$148,400) \times 2$ elections] in FY24-25 and every two years thereafter, and \$153,788 in FY25-26 and every four years thereafter.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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